

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is in response to the discovery that the instant specification does not contain a "Brief Description of the Drawings" as required by 37 CFR 1.74 and 37 CFR 1.77(b)(8).

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Richard Jaworski on 22 July 2008.

-On page 3 of the instant specification, above the heading "Disclosure of Invention", please insert the following:

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 illustrates a light optical microscopy (LOM) of an austenitic stainless steel article nitrided for 20 hours at 449°C.

Figure 2 illustrates a light optical microscopy (LOM) of an austenitic stainless steel article nitrided for 21 hours at 480°C.

Figure 3 illustrates a light optical microscopy (LOM) of an austenitic stainless steel article carburized for 6 hours at 507°C.

Figure 4 illustrates a light optical microscopy (LOM) of a duplex stainless steel article nitrided for 23 hours and 20 minutes at 400°C.

Figure 5 illustrates an x-ray diffraction analysis (XRD) of a duplex stainless steel nitrided for 23 hours and 20 minutes at 400°C.

Figure 6 illustrates an x-ray diffraction analysis (XRD) of an austenitic stainless steel nitrided for 23 hours and 20 minutes at 400°C, 425°C, and 450°C.

Figure 7 illustrates cyclic polarization curves for nitrided stainless steel samples having nickel and iron electrochemically deposited layers.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jesse Roe whose telephone number is (571) 272-5938. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Roy V. King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Roy King/
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Unit 1793

Art Unit: 1793

JR

Application Number**Application/Control No.**

10/521,612

Examiner

Jessee Roe

**Applicant(s)/Patent under
Reexamination**

SOMERS ET AL.

Art Unit

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